

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson (US 6,526,581) in view of Lee (US 2003/0078990) and in view of Skladman (US 2003/0026393) and in view of Kimura (US 6,091,515).

In the Amendment filed November 21, 2007, Applicant submitted:

Edson fails to disclose, a fax machine connected to the home network through a power switch and a telephone line. As illustrated in the Examiner's comments above, the Examiner merely contends that Edson discloses that the fax machine is connected to the home network via a gateway and a telephone line. However, this fails to meet the "power switch" feature of claim 1. Moreover, Edson clearly discloses that the telephone 32 (alleged fax machine) is connected to the network 11 through twisted pair telephone wiring 21. (col. 7, lines 40-43; Fig. 1). Furthermore, this single connection via the telephone wiring 21 is the only connection to the network disclosed in Edson. Therefore, Edson fails to disclose a fax machine connected to the home network through a power switch and a telephone line.

(Amendment of November 21, 2007, pp. 8-9).

In the Response to Arguments section of this Office Action, the Examiner contends:

Edson clearly discloses a fax machine (Fig. 1, el. 33) connected to the home network (Fig. 1, el. 21 and 23) through a power switch (not shown but inherent. All fax machines must have a power switch) and a telephone line (Fig. 2, el. 19, 15; also see Col. 4, lines 25-30).

(Office Action, p. 2.)

Consequently, it appears the Examiner is relying on inherency to support that the fax machine is connected to the home network through a power switch. As a basis for this position, the Examiner contends that all fax machines must have a power switch. However, Applicant submits that even if such were the case, i.e. all fax machines have a power switch, this fails to support the Examiner's position that the fax machine is connected to a home network through the power switch. Rather, this inherency argument merely provides support that the fax machine has

a power switch. It fails to support any connecting of the fax machine to the home network via a power switch.

Moreover, while Edson utilizes both a power line 23 and a twisted pair of wires 21 for connecting devices, Edson only uses a single line, either the power line 23 or the twisted pair of wires 21 for the connection. Edson never discloses that a device is connected using both a power line 23 and a twisted pair of wires 21. Further, Edson prefers the twisted pair of wires 21 due to easier interfacing, but uses the power line 23 connection because power outlets are located throughout the premises, allowing connectivity in the absence of a twisted pair of wires 21. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would read Edson as teaching away from using a power line 23 connection when a twisted pair of wires 21 is accessible.

Additionally, the Examiner has failed to allege, and neither Lee, Skladman nor Kimura disclose any fax machine connected to the home network though a power switch and a telephone line. Consequently, because none of the applied references disclose this feature, even if combined as suggested by the Examiner, the suggested combination fails to disclose all the features of claim 1.

Thus, Applicant submits claim 1 is allowable for at least this reason. Additionally, because claims 6 and 11 recite a feature similar to the feature argued above with regard to claim 1, Applicant submits claims 6 and 11 are allowable for the same reasons set forth above. Further, Applicant submits claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-18 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1, 6 or 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Edson (US 6,526,581) in view of Lee (US 2003/0078990) and in view of Skladman (US 2003/0026393) and in view of Kimura (US 6,091,515) and in view of Frise (6,628,771).

In the rejection, the Examiner contends Edson, Lee, Skladman and Kimura fail to disclose how a power jack, power switch, power plug and adapter are connected together. To cure this deficiency, the Examiner applies Frise.

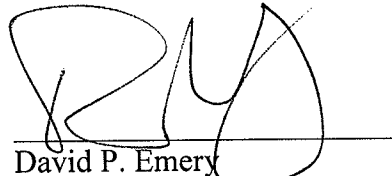
In response, Applicant submits that because Frise, either taken alone or in combination with Edson, Lee, Skladman or Kimura, fails to compensate for the above noted deficiencies of the Edson/Lee/Skladman/Kimura combination as set forth above with regard to claims 1 and 6, claims 19 and 20 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Emery', written over a horizontal line.

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